

REMARKS

The previously pending claims in the present application were either copies of, or modeled on, claims of several patents (US patents numbers 6,014,327, 6,344,998, 6,381,172, and 6,404,675, all to Banks), having been copied for purposes of provoking an interference. However, given the protracted pendency of the present application, rather than retain these claims and continue with requesting an interference, which would further extend the pendency of the application, the present amendment will instead cancel the previous claims and add some new claims in order to facilitate the present application's passing to issue.

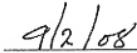
The most recent Office Communication in the present case (mailed April 3, 2008) indicated the allowability of the previously pending claims, but indicated that the case was suspended due to a potential interference. Newly added claims 157-160 are drawn to similar subject matter to the previously pending claims and should similarly be allowable; however, they sufficiently differ in enough particulars from the previously depending claims so that they are no longer believed to supply a basis for the previously requested interference.

An early indication of the allowance of newly added claims 157-160 is therefore earnestly solicited. A phone call to the undersigned is invited should there be any questions.

Respectfully submitted,



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